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THAILAND

Nakhon Si Thammarat

Phatthalung

Krung Ching Waterfall



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NAKHON SI THAMMARAT

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Phatthalung





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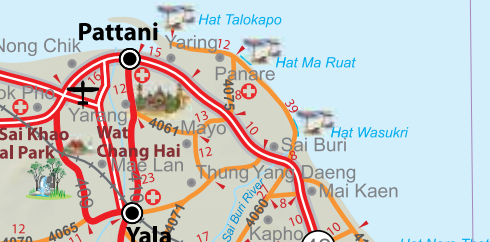


Gulf of Thailand



Thale Bua

Maeo





Khanom

Nakhon Si Thammarat

The province of Nakhon Si Thammarat, situated approximately 780 kms. from Bangkok on the eastern coast of the southern peninsula, is the historic heart and the second largest city of the region. Originally known as Ligor, Nakhon Si Thammarat dates back to the 2nd century AD and subsequently gained importance as a staging post on the early trade route between China and southern India.

Between the 8th and 13th centuries, the area was part of the powerful Srivijaya Empire. After the rise of the Thais, Nakhon Si Thammarat served as a religious and cultural centre when Theravada Buddhism spread from Sri Lanka to Sukhothai in the late 13th century. Today, the city remains a cultural hub, notably for shadow puppets, southern Thai dance, and the nielloware craft of fashioning objects out of silver mixed with a black alloy. Most of the city is mountainous and forested, although there are several attractive beaches along the eastern coastline.

CLIMATE

The east coast of the southern peninsula has a rainy season from November to February.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Wat Phra Mahathat Woramaha Wihan

The South's largest temple and believed to be more than 1,000 years old, Wat Phra Mahathat is large compound dominated by a 77-metre-high Chedi, topped by a solid gold spire. Several halls enshrine Buddha images and other religious objects, considered of architectural interest.

Nakhon Si Thammarat National Museum

Providing a good introduction to the art and

culture of the South, the museum houses an excellent collection of priceless artefacts, as well as examples of the region's major crafts, including yan liphao vine-woven handbags that were traditionally royal gifts, and nielloware.

Ho Phra Phuttha Sihing

The Shrine of Phra Phuttha Sihing Image revered by all Buddhists is located near the City Hall. The image is assumed to have been constructed during the Sukhothai Period.

Ban Nang Talung Suchart Subsin

Mr. Suchart Subsin has become well known as a shadow puppet performer and maker, and has obtained many national awards for his excellent skills, one of them being the Thailand Tourism Award for Outstanding Cultural Attraction. He opens his home at 110/18 Soi Si Thammasok Road, to the people who are interested in puppetry with the hope of reviving Nang Talung or shadow puppet play. Many shadow puppets from Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand as well as farming tools are on display.

Old City Wall

The city's defensive walls were rebuilt in several periods, and the last time was in the 17th century. Today a 2,230-metre length survives the test of time to give a good insight into Nakhon Si Thammarat's original power and significance.

Chedi Yak

The city's second tallest Chedi, which is believed to have been constructed in the year 1003.

Nakhon Si Thammarat City Museum

It was built by the municipality for the purpose of local education. Presentations in the exhibition halls are shown with a variety of modern multimedia. The museum also features a local handicraft zone, a local game zone, friends of the museum events, and the mobile museum. Other activities initiated by the museum include tree planting to help reduce global warming; publishing the "The Gate to the City Museum" magazine which is the museum guide leaflets both in Thai and in English, and other tourism - related manuals; and providing training for young tourist guides as well as museum personnel and volunteers. The Award of Outstanding Performance for Tourism Promotion and Development Organization was given to this museum in 2008. No entry fee is required. Open daily from 8:30 am to 16:30 pm. For more information, please call +66 7535 8261, +66 7535 6164

Ban Than Khun Ratthawut Wichan is a wooden elevated Thai pattern house with a hip roof (called Panya) located on Ratchadamnoen Road. Built in 1902, the house was conserved as an antique house of the province for the future generations of Nakhon Si Thammarat and tourists to visit and admire its beauty.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE KHANOM

Hat Khanom - Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park

Hat Khanom - Mu Ko Thale Tai National Park has its headquarters on the Khanom-Rong Faifa Road. It is 100 metres from the road to the left. The park incorporates islands, mountains and

coastal areas of Amphoe Khanom and some parts of Surat Thani. This park has many islands, such as Ko Noi, Ko Wang Nai, Ko Wang Nai, Ko Wang Nok, Ko Taen, Ko Rap, Ko Tha Rai, and Ko Phi. In addition, there are some bays like Ao Khanom, Ao Thong Tha Kham, Ao Thong Lang, Ao Thong Yi, and Ao Thong Yang. Mountains dot the park, like Khao Phlai Dam, Khao Phi Ngai, Khao Kho, Khao Phlao, and Khao Dat Fa.

AMPHOE LAN SAKA

Ban Khiri Wong

Ban Khiri Wong is an ancient community which settled at the foot of Khao Luang in Tambo Kamlon, a path up the mountain. The main occupation is growing mixed fruits, such as mangosteen, rambutan, durian, and Sato. Ban Khiri Wong is considered a prototype of eco-tourism management and the place won the 1998 Thailand Tourism Award in the city and community category. The village is a good example of local people co-existing with nature. Residents have developed tourism services to be a new business for the area. The services include trekking tours, porters and homestay programs through the Eco-tourism Club, a central organization that delegates responsibilities to groups in the community to create cooperation. Tourists can appreciate the way of life here all year round, with the most attractive time during July to September when fruits are on sale. Trekking up Khao Luang must start at Ban Khiri Wong. Please contact the Tambon Kamlon Administration Office at Tel. +66 7553 3113.

Trekking

Explore the natural world on the way to Khao

Luang summit in Khao Luang National Park where visitors can learn about geography, flora and fauna, waterfalls and ecology along the trail. The most suitable period for trekking is 3 days 2 nights. There are 3 organizations to arrange the trek as follows: Ban Kiriwong (Tel. +66 7553 3113) ; Ban Wang Lung Nature and Environment Conservation (Tel. 08 7885 9167) and Tarzan Adventure Tour Tel. +66 8 9909 8533, +66 8 1824 8880.

Namtok Karom

It originates in NST mountain range and cascades down 19 levels but only 7 levels are



Karom Waterfall

open to tourists. It is situated in Amphoe Lan Saka. Nan Dat Fa, the seventh levels, is the most beautiful level. Inside this level, there is a two-kilometer nature trail with clear signs showing the way. Thus, you can walk through the trail without any help. To get to Karom Waterfall, take songthaew (Lansaka- Khaokaew routh) and get off when you see the sign of Karom Waterfall on the right. From the highway, it is 3 km. walk to the fall.

Khao Luang National Park

It covers Amphoe Mueang, Amphoe Phipun, Amphoe Phrom Khiri, Amphoe Lan Saka, Amphoe Chawang, Amphoe Chang Klang, and Amphoe Nopphitam. Having a land area of 597 square kilometers, it was declared a national park on December 18, 1974. The park has a winding mountain range, with the Khao Luang peak the highest of the peaks in southern Thailand at 1,835 meters above sea level. It is the watershed of more than 15 streams and rivers. The park's rainforest is home to a multitude of tropical flora and fauna. There is a route that takes visitors around the park to see unspoiled natural scenery, the variety of wildlife and rare animal and plant species, some of which can only be found in the park. The beauty and completeness of the park, its fascinating nature, the park's efforts to encourage the local community and tourists to be aware of the importance of nature, and its excellent tourist service system have all combined to had helped the park win the 1998 Thailand Tourism Award in the natural destination category. For more information, please call Khao Luang National Park at Karom Waterfall at +66 7530 0494 or visit www.dnp.go.th.



Phrom Lok Waterfall

AMPHOE PHROM KHIRI

Namtok Phrom Lok

is in Tambon Phrom Lok. This is a large waterfall with wide and lovely rock platforms, large pools for swimming and natural waterslides. It can be reached via Highway No. 4016 (Nakhon Si Thammarat-Phrom Khiri) to Km. 20. After that, turn left onto Highway No. 4132 for 5 kilometers.

Khao Nan National Park

Khao Nan National Park is 30 kilometres from Amphoe Tha Sala. The park covers areas in Amphoe Tha Sala, Amphoe Sichon and Amphoe Nopphitam. In addition, the park has areas in Pa Khao Nan National Forest Reserve and Pa Krung Ching National Forest Reserve. The total area of the park is 436 square kilometres. The main topography is a high mountain range extending

from Khao Luang National Park. The park itself is a watershed of many waterways. Travel from the city can be by Highway No. 401 across Khlong Klai past Ban Sa Kaeo in Amphoe Tha Sala. Upon reaching Km. 110, turn left into Ban Pak Chao and drive 15 kilometres to the park office. The park's main attraction is Sunantha waterfall which is a small but lovely waterfall. Water drops down a steep cliff to the pool below before flowing into Khlong Klai, the main waterway of Tha Sala. Rafting can be done in the canal when the water level is high.

Wat Khao Khun Phanom and Nakhon Si Thammarat Science Center

Wat Khao Khun Phanom is a temple of historical and archaeological importance in here. The temple has a cave lined with a brick wall and marked with heart-shaped stones marking the



Wat Khao Khun Phanom

limits of the temple similar to those along the city wall. The front wall has plaster designs decorated with Chinese porcelain. In the cave are about 30 bronze Buddha images and a bronze Buddha's footprint. Several smaller connecting caves branch out from the main cave like an elaborate fortress maze. Many believe this is where King Taksin the Great used to stay. Others believe it was the rest stop of Princess Kesini, daughter of Chao Nara Suriyawong, the lord of Nakhon Si Thammarat during 1769-1776.

On the way up Khao Khun Phanom is the Nakhon Si Thammarat Science Center which provides knowledge about science, technology, the environment, and eco-tourism to the public. In 2010, the Nakhon Si Thammarat

Science Center won the Award of Outstanding Performance for Recreational Tourist Site from Thailand Tourism Awards. For more information, please contact +66 7539 6363 or visit www.nakhonsci.com. From the city, take Highway

No. 4016 to Km. 21 past Phrom Lok market and take a right-hand road for 2.5 kilometers.

AMPHOE PAK PHANANG

Laem Talumphuk

This scenic headland, about 40 kms. from the provincial capital, is a long sandy cape jutting out into the Gulf of Thailand. On the western shore is a fishing village and to the east is a pine-fringed beach.



Laem Ta Lum Phuk

Pak Phanang river front

Local municipality of Pak Phanang has organized cruise trips for tourists to experience ways of life of local people as well as Pak Phanang royal projects, bird's nest houses, and mangrove forests. You'll also cruise into the old river to see some traditional ways of life of Pak Phanang. Rental fee for a boat is THB 1,200 for a two-hour trip, and THB 500 for each subsequent hour. For reservation, contact +66 7551 7058, +66 7551 7266, +66 7551 7630

AMPHOE NOPPHITAM

Namtok Krung Ching

It is one of the beautiful and important waterfalls in Khao Luang National Park. Located in Tambon Krung Ching, the waterfall derived

its name from Ton Ching which is a kind of palm prevalent in the area. The waterfall has many levels but the most breathtaking one is Nan Fon Saen Ha where water flows down from the big cliff over a hundred meters high and splash down creating a mist covering the area like rain. This waterfall level used to be illustrated on the back of Thailand's 1,000 baht bank note. The waterfall can be reached by a 3.8 kilometre concrete trail through the forest. The area has a training center, accommodations and a campground. For more information, please contact: Tel. +66 7530 0494 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

AMPHOE THUNG SONG

Namtok Yong National Park

Awarded Thailand Tourism Award for Outstanding Natural Attraction, Namtok Yong National Park covers a vast area of mountain ranges and fertile forest which has been well taken care of. Attractions within the park include several magnificent mountains; such as, Khao Men and Khao Ram Rong, as well as fascinating waterfalls; namely, Namtok Yong, Namtok Plio, Namtok Khlong Chang, and Namtok Nan Toei. Natural walking trail and accommodation is available at the park and the most appropriate time to visit is during October to February. For more information, visit www.dnp.go.th.



Namtok Yong National Park

AMPHOE SICHON

Hat Hin Ngam

A beautiful rocky beach located 66 kms. North of Nakhon Si Thammarat, Hat Hin Ngam also offers several comfortable accommodations.



Hat Hin Ngam



Khao Kha Archaeological Site

Khao Kha Archaeological Site

This is the site of an ancient city dating back some 1,500 years. Fragments of ruins scattered around the area include the remains of a hilltop laterite shrine. Khao Kha is a sacred religious place of the Saiwanikai sect which worships Shiva as its highest god. Khao Kha is regarded as being like the mythical Khao Phra Sumen, a center of worship, which is surrounded by smaller, secondary historical sites. Many artifacts used in rites including phallic symbols, holy water pipes, ruins, and an ancient pond, have been found. The site was dated from the 13th-14th Buddhist century. The Fine Arts Department completed its renovation in 1997. **To get there:** take Highway No. 401 from Si Phibun intersection to Km. 99, and then turn left onto Chinda Pracha Sawan Road for 7 kilometers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hae Pha Khuen That

Held in February, the Festival features the locals paying homage to the locally enshrined relics of the Lord Buddha. There are a number of religious ceremonies, among them a traditional merit-making procession during which the Phra Bot cloth painting the Lord Buddha's life is placed over the relics.

Southern Grand Songkran Festival

Celebrate the Thai New Year during 13-15 April at Si Thammasokarat Park and Sanam Na Mueang, the festival features making merit to monks, bathing the Phra Phuttha Sihing Buddha image at I-suan Hall, Songkran processions based on Hinduism, a mini light-and-sound presentation titled Si Thammasokarat, cultural shows, an antique market, and water splashing



Wat Phra Mahathat Woramaha Wihan

fun. Website: www.songkran.net, www.tourismthailand.org

Festival of the 10th Lunar Month

Celebrated in September through October, the Festival is held during the 15 nights of the 10th waning moon to bring merit to the souls of ancestors.

GETTING THERE

By Air

There are three airlines operating flights between Bangkok and Nakhon Si Thammarat as follows:

Nok Air Airline BKK office: tel. +66 2627 2000;
NST office: tel. +66 7536 9325; website: www.nokair.com

Air Asia Airline BKK office: tel. +66 2515 9999;
NST office: tel. +66 7536 9205; website: www.airasia.com

Thai Lion Air BKK office: tel. +66 2529 9999;
website: www.lionairthai.com



By Bus

Coaches leave daily for Nakhon Si Thammarat from Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal (Sai Tai Mai). Please contact Tel: +66 2422 4444, +66 2894 6122 or visit www.transport.co.th for more information.

Bangkok-Nakhon Si Thammarat: Air-conditioned buses depart from Bangkok Bus Terminal to Nakhon Si Thammarat every day. For more information, contact Bangkok Southern Bus Station Tel. +66 2894 6122. Nakhon Si Thammarat Bus Station Tel: +66 7534 1125. It takes 10-12 hours to reach Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Air-conditioned buses from private companies are also provided as follows:

Nakhon Si Racha Tour Co., Ltd.

Tel: +66 2894 6220

Nakhon Si Romyen Tour Co., Ltd.

Tel: +66 2894 6154 - 5

Pi Ya Tour Co., Ltd. (to Thung Song)

Tel: +66 2894 6330 - 2

Sap Pai San Co., Ltd. (to Khanom)

Tel: +66 2894 6040 - 1

Si Suthep Tour Co., Ltd.

Tel: +66 2885 7981, +66 2894 6167

Sombat Tour Co., Ltd. (to Thung Song)

Tel: +66 2894 6008, +66 2894 6154 - 5

Transport Co., Ltd.

Tel: +66 2936 2841 - 48

you arrive in Nakhon Si Thammarat. The total distance is 780 km.

By Rail

From Hua Lamphong Railway Station, take a rapid or express train to Nakhon Si Thammarat. The total distance is 832 km. For more details, call 1690 or +66 2220 4334 or visit www.railway.or.th. Nakhon Si Thammarat Railway Station, Tel: +66 7535 6364, +66 7534 6129. Most southbound trains from Bangkok stop at Thung Song, Surat Thani, about 40 kms. west of Nakhon Si Thammarat, although two daily trains take the branch line from Thung Song to the city.

For more information, contact the State Railways of Thailand Tel. 1690, or visit www.railway.co.th.

ACCOMMODATION

A full list of hotels can be obtained from the TAT Nakhon Si Thammarat office Tel. +66 7534 6515 - 6.

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Nielloware items and shadow puppets are among the top local buys.

By Car

Take highway No. 4 Bangkok-Prachuap Khiri Khan-Chumphon and then highway No.41 passing Surat Thani – Thung Song until you reach Nakhon Si Thammarat or arrive in Amphoe Phun Phin, Surat Thani. Then, take highway No 401 and drive along the coast until



Khao Ok Talu

Phatthalung

Lying directly south of Phatthalung presents a traditional picture of Thailand's Far South, and combines natural and culture sights well worth exploring.

From mountains forests and high plateaus in the west, the eastern side of Phatthalung slopes down to the upper shores of Songkhla Lake, while culturally the province is distinguished as the birthplace of two famous southern entertainment; such as, Thai shadow play and the enchanting Manora dance.

CLIMATE

The east of the southern peninsula has a rainy season from November to February.

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Phra Phutthanirakhantharai Chaiyawat Chaturathit or Phra Si Mum Mueang

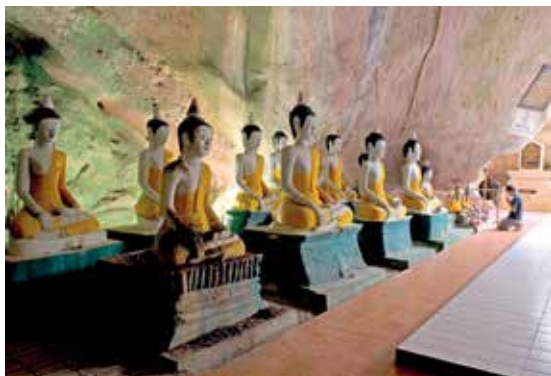
Is the Buddha image of the South and an auspicious object of worship of Phatthalung. This bronze Buddha image in the posture of meditation, graciously given to the province of Phatthalung by His Majesty the King on 24 December 1968, is enshrined in a pavilion with four porches on the foreground between the City Hall and Provincial Court of Phatthalung.

Wat Khuha Sawan

It is a temple located at the foot of Khao Khuha Sawan near the city market. This is one of the ancient monuments of Phatthalung. Assumably, it was built in around the 8th – 10th centuries. Inside the cave, a giant reclining Buddha image, pagoda, and other Buddha images are found together with some earthen votive tablets of the Srivijaya period. Inscriptions of royal initials belonging to King Rama V and Their Majesties



Phra Phutthanirakhantharai Chaiyawat Chaturathit



Wat Khuha Sawan

the King and Queen appear in front of the cave. Furthermore, stucco arts in Tham Nang Khlout depict folklore.



Wat Wang

Khao Ok Talu

From Wat Khuha Sawan, follow Highway 4047 and Khao Ok Talu or Mount Ok Talu will be seen standing majestically to the east of the railway station. It is a symbolic figure of Phatthalung, having a height of around 250 m. There is a flight of stairs leading the way up to the mountaintop overlooking the city of Phatthalung. The distinctive feature is a hole near the top, where visitors can see through it.

Wat Wang

It is a temple located in Tambon Lampam, around 6 km from town on Highway 4047 (the same route to Khao Ok Talu). This is one of the important places of worship of Phatthalung. The temple has many important items. The Ubosot

(ordination hall) is in the architectural style of the Rattanakosin era, with the 'Chofa'- gable finial, 'Bai Raka'- crockets, and a front portico. Inside, there are tempera mural paintings which were assumed to have been drawn in the reign of King Rama IV. It was supposed that such paintings were the craftsmanship of the same artisans who drew the mural paintings in the Ubosot of Wat Phra Si Rattanasatsadaram or Wat Phra Kaeo. The paintings here depict the Lord Buddha's life and a congregation of deities. One hundred and eight stucco Buddha images are enshrined in the gallery around the ordination hall. In addition, there is a pagoda, Wihan (image hall), and a preaching pulpit with golden patterns, which were also built in the Rattanakosin era. It is an ideal place for those

who are interested in Thai architecture.

Rulers' New and Old Palaces

are located near Wat Wang. Once they served as a residence cum office of the governors of Phatthalung. Nowadays, some parts of them remain. Wang Kao or the old palace was built during the ruling of Phraya Phatthalung (Noi Chantharotwong). Later, the palace was inherited to Mrs. Praphai Mutamara, a daughter of Luang Si Worachat. Wang Mai or the new palace was built in 1889 by Phraya Aphaiborirak Chakkrawichit Phiphitphakdi (Net Chantharotwong), a son of Phraya Phatthalung who was the ruler of the city of Phatthalung at that time. The heirs of the Chantharotwong family gave the old and new palaces as national treasures to the Fine Arts Department. The palaces were registered as an ancient monument in 1983. The palaces are open daily, except for Mondays, Tuesdays, and public holidays, during 9.00 – 12.00 a.m. and 1.00 – 4.00 p.m. Admission is 50 Baht.

Hat Saen Suk Lampam

It is a beach around 2 km from Wat Wang on Highway 4047. This sandy beach along the coastal line of Songkhla Lake is fringed by shady pine trees. The pavilion jutting into the sea called 'Sala Lampam Thi Rak,' serves as a viewpoint to admire the lake's surroundings. Additionally, there is a bridge linking the beach to a nearby small island called Ko Loi, which resulted from sediment compilation at the mouth of the Lampam River.



Coconut Shell Handicraft Centre of Mueang Phatthalung

Coconut Shell Handicraft Centre of Mueang Phatthalung

It is located at Mu 1, Tambon Chai Buri, around 6 km from town on the route to the Sai Yuan Junction. This is a village of handicrafts made from coconut shell. The products are so famous that their production place is acclaimed as the village of million-baht-worth coconut shells. From an initiative of Mr. Pluem Chukhong, Head of the community, coconut shells were introduced and designed into kitchen utensils and ornaments, such as spoon, coffee cup,



Thale Noi Non

water bowl, dipper, ladle, lamp, etc. Products are sold domestically and overseas. To see the villagers' way of life and purchase items of your choice, contact Mr. Pluem Chukhong at Tel. +66 8 6287 2542

OTHER ATTRACTIONS AMPHOE KHUAN KHANUN

Thale Noi Non-hunting Area

Though being declared a non-hunting area on 18 February 1975, it is commonly called 'Thale Noi Waterfowl Park.' This is the first non-hunting area ever founded in Thailand, under the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Flora, Ministry of National Resources and Environment. The Khuan Khi Sian Peat Swamp in the area around Thale Noi or Noi Lake is the first Ramsar site of Thailand. Interesting things at the Thale Noi Waterfowl Park are the Thale Noi

Palace, sea of blooming lotus in the morning, flocks of waterfowls, the nesting and egg-laying grounds of waterfowls at Ao Mo and those at Khuan Thale Mong, Khuan Khi Sian Ranger Station, and the Sala Nang Riam viewpoint.

To get there: From the city of Phatthalung, take Highway 4048 (Phatthalung – Khuan Khanun) for around 32 km; there are direction signs along the asphalt road. By train, get off at the Pak Khlong Railway Station to connect to a bus to Thale Noi for around 8 km. Furthermore, the Thale Noi Non-hunting Area offers a tourist information centre, a welfare shop, 4 reception houses, and 60 tour boats. For further details, call Tel. +66 7468 5230, +66 7468 5430

AMPHOE KHAO CHAISON *Wat Khian Bang Kaeo*

It was recognized as a model temple for



Wat Khian Bang Kaeo

development in 1990. This ancient temple has Phrathat Bang Kaeo which is an imitation of Phra Mahathat Chedi of Nakhon Si Thammarat, but in a smaller scale. It is one of the ancient places of worship of Phatthalung believed to have been built in the early Ayutthaya period. Assumably, the temple area had been the location of the city of Phatthalung since laterite debris and numerous Buddha images were found. In addition, the temple houses a museum where Buddha images and crockery have been collected. To visit the museum, permission from the abbot is required.

To get there: Take Highway 4081 and drive past Amphoe Khao Chaison for around 7 km. At Km 14 in Ban Bang Kaeo Tai, a direction sign on the left indicates the distance of 2.5 km to reach the temple.

Laem Chong Thanon

It is a fishing village in Tambon Chong Thanon. From the city of Phatthalung, follow Phetchakasem Road and turn left past Amphoe Khao Chaison for around 12 km. The total distance from the city of Phatthalung is 39 km. The village is on a hill sloping down to the beach of Songkhla Lake, and overlooking vistas and islands. Restaurants are also available for visitors.

Khao Chai Son Hot Spring and Cold Stream

is located in the area of Khao Chai Son and is known among the locals as Bo Nam Saksit (sacred pond). According to legend, Grandpa San and Grandma Sun, whose statues appear in front of the pond, were the owners. The temperature of the Hot Spring is approximately 60 degrees Celsius. Due to its mineral contents, the Hot Spring is believed to have healing properties for some diseases; such as, skin diseases, paresis, pains and aches, etc. There is an outdoor pool and bathrooms for tourists to soak or take a mineral bath. For further information, please contact the Khao Chai Son Subdistrict Administration Organisation, Tel. +66 7469 1405, +66 7469 1632.

To get there: From Phatthalung city, follow Highway No. 43, turn left at the Khao Chai Son T-junction onto the provincial highway No. 4081 towards Amphoe Khao Chai Son, and turn right onto a rural road to the Khao Chai Son Hot Spring.



Namtok Phraiwan

AMPHOE KONG RA

Namtok Phraiwan

It is a waterfall located in the area of Ban Phut Ranger Station, Khao Banthat Wildlife Sanctuary, in Tambon Khlong Chaloem. This large-scale waterfall is tranquil and full of shady trees. There are food shops in the waterfall area.

To get there: From the town of Phatthalung, take Highway 4 and, at the Kong Ra T-junction, turn right to follow Highway 4122 for around 29 km. There is a direction sign indicating another 3 km before the waterfall. Visitors can

get to the waterfall on their own by means of taking a mini-bus on the Namtok Phraiwan – Phatthalung Line at the bus stop diagonally opposite the Phatthalung Railway Station. The mini-bus departs daily every 15 minutes during 7.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. The last bus from Namtok Phraiwan to Phatthalung leaves at 3.00 p.m.

AMPHOE TAMOT

Namtok Lan Mom Chui

It is a waterfall amidst a shady forest in the area of the Ban Tamot Wildlife Protection Unit. The waterfall has divided layers in different names and a pool of water where visitors can enjoy swimming. *To get there:* From Amphoe Tamot, take Highway 4121 and switch to Highway 4237 toward Wat Tamot for around 18 km. The waterfall is around 4-5 km after Wat Tamot.

AMPHOE SI BANPHOT

Khao Pu – Khao Ya National Park

It is the 42nd national park of Thailand, which was declared on 27 May 1982. Its area of around 433,750 rai covers some parts in Phatthalung, Nakhon Si Thammarat, and Trang provinces. The most geographical features are forests in the Banthat Range which has a complex of mountains with 'Khao Hin Thaen' as the highest mountaintop. This national park is an origin of the Trang and the Pak Phanang Rivers. In Phatthalung, it originates Khlong Lamai, Khlong Mai Siap, and Khlong Nam Sai; all the three canals flow to combine and become Khlong Cha-u at and the Pak Phanang River. The Park has several caves and waterfalls, as well as viewpoints and hiking trails.

In addition, other places of interest are as follows:-



Khao Pu – Khao Ya National Park

Tham Matcha Pla Won It is a medium cave, about 2 km from the park headquarters. Inside, there are 3 spacious chambers, stalactites, stalagmites, limestone curtain, and many bats. Furthermore, the Asian giant toad and millipede are also found here. At the cave's end, a water pool of 10 sq m is the habitat of shrimp, shell, and *Clarias teijsmanni* bleeker.

Pha Phueng It is a limestone cliff, around 300 m from the park headquarters. Giant bees always come to make hundreds of hives here every year during February to April. Walking along the hillside to the top, visitors will find viewpoints for nature and species of plants.

Nature Trails There are 2 trails within the area of the park headquarters. They are suitable for a study of nature and, herbs, or research on



Tham Wang Nai Phut

natural resources and biological environment. Additionally, there is Namtok Rieng Thong, Tham Wang Nai Phut, Namtok Khuan Pra, and Namtok Pak Chaem. The park has 11 reception houses on offer together with a camping site for visitors. For further details, contact the Khao Pu – Khao Ya National Park at Tel. +66 7461

9654-5, or the Reception House Service Section, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Flora, Bangkok, at Tel. +66 2562 0760, www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: From the city of Phatthalung, take Highway 41 for around 20 km. Then, turn left at the Pho Thong Junction to follow Highway 4164 (Khuan Khanun – Khao Pu Road) for around 17 km. See a direction sign and turn left for around 4 km before arriving at the park.

AMPHOE BANG KAEO

Khlong Hu Rae

It is located in Tambon Tha Maduea, 33

km from the city of Phatthalung. Go along Phetchakasem Road for around 20 km and turn left to follow the Khao Chaison – Chong Ke Road (Highway 4081). Turn right in front of the Khao Chaison District Office for another 5 km before reaching the canal. There is a taxi motorcycle service in front of the Khao Chaison District Office. Khlong Hu Rae or Hu Rae Canal is large and full of clear and clean water. The canal's bottom is sandy and boulders lie at its depth. It is a place suitable for recreation and swimming. Restaurants are available for visitors.

Bang Kaeo Shadow Puppet Figure and Handicraft Centre

It is located at Mu 1, Ban Bang Kaeo, Tambon Tha Maduea, 36 km from the town of Phatthalung. It is around 9 km from the junction of Phetchakasem Road and the train track, or another 200 m from the train track. The Bang Kaeo Handicraft village consists of 25 members who carve hides into puppet figures for Nang Talung and Nang Yai shadow plays, as well as new figures in patterns required by customers. Their craftsmanship is exquisite and highly skilled. The products are distributed for sale throughout the country and overseas in more than 15 countries. To visit and buy puppet figures, contact the village's Chairman, Mr. Im Chanchum, at Tel. +66 7469 7160, or the Community Development Office, Amphoe Bang Kaeo, at Tel. +66 7469 7380.

Model Farm Project under H.M. the Queen's Royal Initiative

is located at Ban Khrong Chip, Tambon Na Pakho, 500 metres to the south of Bang Kaeo Shadow Puppet Figure and Handicraft Centre.



Khlong Hu Rae



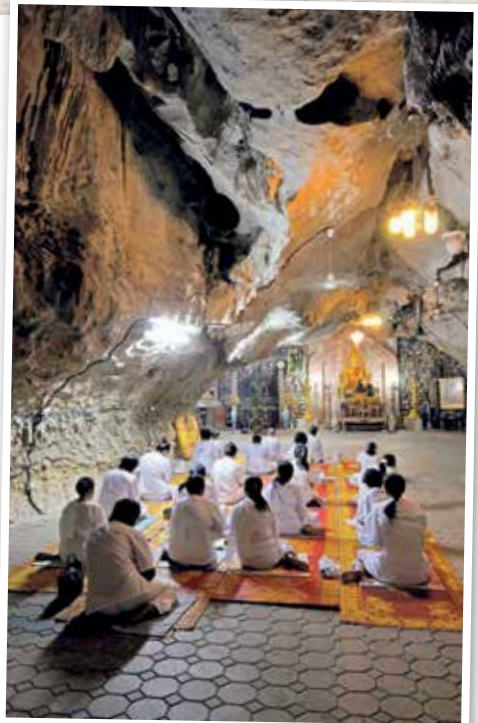
Tham Sumano

The Project has been implemented since July 2001, on pieces of land in Mu 1, Mu 8, and Mu 10 donated by villagers of Ban Khrong Chip, Tambon Na Pakho. The land measures approximately 100 metres wide and 4,200 metres long. The purposes of the Project are to be a source of employment for local farmers, learning and practice on agriculture, and food for the province. The Project deals with various aspects of farming including vegetables, soil improvement, economic crops, livestock, crop rotation, mushroom cultivation, fishery, fruit plants, and paddy farming.

AMPHOE SRINAGARINDRA

Tham Sumano

It is a cave located in Tambon Ban Na, around 21 km from the town of Phatthalung on Phetchakasem Road (Phatthalung – Trang



route). The cave is around 500 m from the road. Inside, there are some stalactites and stalagmites, as well as spacious chambers. The cave is cool and shady with spectacular nature. It comprises a system of 18 small caves. Buddha images in different postures are housed in the cave. The cave is also used for insight development and Dharma practices.

AMPHOE PA BON

Zalacca Farm by Uncle Tan Tel. +66 8 4859 3571, +66 8 9977 9091

SPECIAL EVENT

Thale Noi Bird-watching Festival

It was initiated in 1998 as an extra activity for the Amazing Thailand Year, and designed to suit the most important attraction of Phatthalung. There are ecotourism activities on offer in the Thale Noi Non-hunting Area for a period of two months (1 February – 15 March) when beautiful nature and birds can be seen. The activities in each day include a long-tailed boat ride to do bird-watching and admire aquatic plants, local performances, agricultural products for sale, learning about the community's way of life, and local products purchase.

Khaeng Phon Lak Phra or Chak Phra Tradition

It is held on the fourteenth day of the waxing moon, the full moon day and the first day of the waning moon in the eleventh lunar month, which coincides with the End of Buddhist Lent. It is a tradition to move around Buddha images both by land and by river. In Phatthalung, it is observed by land. Beating

Phon or local drum controls the movement of a Buddha image procession. Each procession representing a temple has its own drum beaters. When two processions meet, they exchange a challenging tune of drum beating. A Phon beating competition is, therefore, held every year at the Phatthalung Stadium and Hat Saen Suk Lampam (Lampam Beach), Amphoe Mueang Phatthalung. Activities in the event include a Phon beating contest by representatives from temples in Phatthalung and neighbouring provinces, a Phon procession contest, a Phon beating style contest, dancing performances, Sat Tom (throwing a traditional dessert made of sticky rice wrapped with a young leaf of Kapho or mangrove fan palm), a Buddha image procession contest, religious rites, water sports on the Lampam Lake, local arts and exhibition of Phatthalung and nearby provinces, such as Krachut or bulrush mat weaving and coconut shell products.

Local Products and Souvenirs

Most of the local products are handicrafts, such as products from Krachut or bulrush mat of Amphoe Khuan Khanun's Tambon Thale Noi (by the Plai Trok Ruam Chai Group of Agricultural Housewives), Nang Talung puppet products of Amphoe Bang Kaeo, coconut shell products of Tambon Chai Buri's Ban Khok Wua, etc. Famous souvenirs include Kalamae or coconut toffee of Tambon Nang Lat, Kluai Chap or crispy buttered banana and Luk Yi (velvet tamarind) candy of Amphoe Mueang Phatthalung, Kung Kaeo or crispy baked prawn of Amphoe Pak Phayun, etc.

GETTING THERE

By car: From Bangkok, there are three routes:-

Route 1: Follow Highway 4 to Chumphon and, at the Pathomphon Intersection, take a turn toward Ranong, Phang-nga, Krabi, Trang, and Phatthalung, a total distance of around 1,140 km.

Phatthalung is 840 kms. from Bangkok.

Route 2: Follow Highway 4 to Chumphon and switch to Highway 41 toward Phatthalung, a total distance of 840 km.

Route 3: Follow Highway 4, past Chumphon, Surat Thani, and Nakhon Si Thammarat, change to Highway 403, and at the Khao Chum Thong Junction, switch to Highway 41 toward Phatthalung.

By train: The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) has a train service via Phatthalung's Amphoe Mueang Phatthalung, Amphoe Khuan Khanun, Amphoe Khao Chaison, Amphoe Pak Phayun, Amphoe Pa Bon, and Amphoe Bang Kaeo. For more information, call Tel. + 66 2223 7010, +66 2223 7020, or contact the Phatthalung Railway Station at Tel. +66 7461 3106

Phatthalung is located on the main southern railway line from Bangkok. For more information, please contact the State Railways of Thailand at Hotline 1690, or visit www.railway.co.th

By bus: The Transport Company Limited offers a daily bus service between Bangkok and Phatthalung, departing the Southern Bus Terminal on Borommaratchachonnani Road. For further details, call Tel. +66 2422 4444, +66 2894 6122, or visit the website: www.transport.co.th.

By plane: There is no airport in Phatthalung. Visitors can take a flight to Trang or Songkhla's Amphoe Hat Yai. For more information, contact the Thai Smile Airways Tel. +66 2118 8888, Nok Air Tel. +66 2900 9955, Thai Air Asia Tel. +66 2515 9999, Thai Lion Air Tel. +66 2529 9999

ACCOMMODATION

A full list of hotels can be obtained from the TAT Nakhon Si Thammarat Office
Tel. +66 7534 6515 – 6.





Festival of the Tenth Lunar Month

